AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) ~~The noise reducing apparatus according to claim 10,~~ A noise reducing apparatus, comprising:

at least one noise reducing section for reducing encoding noise of image data with controllable noise reduction characteristics;

a control section for controlling the noise reduction characteristics of the noise reducing section according to at least one of a scale factor for scaling an image represented by the image data and a degree of motion of the image; and

a motion detecting section for obtaining the degree of motion of the image based on a sum of absolute values of differences between pixel data of pixels of the same position in at least one pair of successive field images or frame images, the difference being obtained for pixels in at least a part of each field image or each frame image, wherein the control section controls the noise reduction characteristics of the noise reducing section according to output of the motion detecting section,

wherein the motion detecting section obtains the degree of motion of the image based on a plurality of sums respectively obtained for a plurality of image pairs.

13. (Original) The noise reducing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the motion detecting section obtains the degree of motion of the image based on a comparison result of each of the sums with at least one prescribed threshold value.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) ~~The noise reducing apparatus according to claim 10,~~ A noise reducing apparatus, comprising:

at least one noise reducing section for reducing encoding noise of image data with controllable noise reduction characteristics;

a control section for controlling the noise reduction characteristics of the noise reducing section according to at least one of a scale factor for scaling an image represented by the image data and a degree of motion of the image;

a motion detecting section for obtaining the degree of motion of the image based on a sum of absolute values of differences between pixel data of pixels of the same position in at least one pair of successive field images or frame images, the difference being obtained for pixels in at least a part of each field image or each frame image, wherein the control section controls the noise reduction characteristics of the noise reducing section according to output of the motion detecting section;

a random noise reducing section for reducing random noise of the image data based on a difference between pixel data of pixels of the same position in at least one pair of successive field images or frame images; and

a difference calculating section shared for calculating the difference between pixel data for reducing the random noise by the random noise reducing section and for calculating the difference between pixel data for obtaining the degree of motion of the image by the motion detecting section.

16-18. (Canceled)